

# EYE ON EDUCATION

A Publication of the Paramount Unified School District

15110 CALIFORNIA AVE., PARAMOUNT, CA 90723 • TEL: 562-602-6000 • FAX: 562-634-6029

AUGUST 2010

## Paramount High School FHA Members Win Gold in Chicago!

Bonnie Casillas and Jose Ramirez, Paramount High School students, won a national competition and received gold medals at the annual Future Homemakers of America (FHA) conference in Chicago, Illinois on July 8, 2010. After winning competitions at regional and statewide FHA meetings, Bonnie and Jose were invited to compete at the national conference in Chicago, Illinois. These students' victory came in the community service project category for Paramount High School FHA club members' volunteer work at the Paramount Convalescent Hospital. At least once a week, the Paramount High School FHA students visited the Convalescent Hospital. The students would visit, talk, and share stories with the residents, and on occasions, the students would bring freshly baked cookies to their new friends. The students and seniors would look forward to decorating the halls and dining commons for the holidays. Bonnie and Jose

presented the "Chapter Service Manual" which highlights the FHA club's community service project with the Paramount Convalescent Hospital. This manual documents the hard work of the FHA students and their efforts to help our older citizens. The FHA club has been helping our community since 1984, and since the club's inception, Ms. Tanimoto and Ms. Lash have led this important campus club. Jose reports that Ms. Lash and Ms. Tanimoto donated a lot of time outside of normal school hours to prepare the team. With the guidance of Ms. Tanimoto, the students worked on their project to ensure that their manual and presentations met each of the requirements outlined in the rubric for the national competition. Ms. Tanimoto said, "I am so proud of these students and I was not surprised that Jose and Bonnie won the gold!" She further explains how the Paramount High School FHA worked hard last school year



Bonnie Casillas and Jose Ramirez proudly displaying their gold medals.

and followed through on all of their plans and commitments. The FHA Paramount students joined over 2,500 students from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

at the national conference, where they competed in one of 25 categories. Paramount student's Bonnie Casillas and Jose Ramirez won the only gold medal for California.

Bonnie states that "hard work pays off" as she described her experiences in earning her gold medal. Both students described

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## The 2010 National Champions of the Young Black Scholars history competition are students of Paramount Unified School District!



Pictured from left to right are students Tijera Easley, Tieranie Hawkins and Sasha Mangram.

On June 18th, three young ladies by the name of Tijera Easley, Tieranie Hawkins and Sasha Mangram proved that dreams do come true! These young ladies will tell you that the road to success does not come easy, but if you work hard and stay committed, anything is possible.

After studying for almost an entire school year, Tijera,

Tieranie and Sasha were named the 2010 Young Black Scholar Champions at a college level history competition! The road to success started at the beginning of the year as the girls sat on stage at Loyola Marymount University and competed for an opportunity to represent Los Angeles at the finals.

After winning the prelimi-

nary competition, the administration and staff of Zamboni Middle School geared up to take Florida by storm. Ms. Settles, counselor of Zamboni Middle School, took the lead as academic coach for the girls and developed a pacing guide and study calendar to get the girls ready for the championship. It was obvious to everyone on campus that these girls were serious and determined to win it all. It was not uncommon to walk into the office and see the girls with books scattered all over the conference room and thinking maps posted on all the walls. Teachers randomly popped into "study headquarters" to quiz the girls and help them decipher the complex college material. The entire staff got involved on a District day when the teachers reviewed a chapter from one of the college textbooks and placed the girls on stage as they each shouted out questions and reviewed their answers. It is an

understatement to say that the entire staff of Zamboni played an intricate part in developing these young scholars.

On June 15, 2010, well prepared and with a few butterflies in their stomachs, three scholars of Paramount Unified School District boarded the flight for Florida. Over the next couple of days they would make history. In round one of the competition they battled ferociously with the team from Madison and won by the skin of their teeth for a final score of 14 to 13. After reflecting with their coach during a break,

the team returned to round two with a vengeance. They defeated Nebraska with ease and confidence. On the evening of June 18, 2010, the young ladies from Frank J. Zamboni Middle School, stepped in the ballroom at the Westin Diplomat in Hollywood, Florida to compete for the title and honor of National Champions. It was evident that these scholars from Zamboni were well prepared and well coached. They swept the team from Charlotte with a score of

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### SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

August 25, 2010 - September 15, 2010

Board of Education meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. in the Boardroom at the District Office, 15110 California Avenue, Paramount, and are open to the public

## SCHOOL REGISTRATION! SCHOOL STARTS AUGUST 25

Do you have a child who will be five years old on or before December 2? If so, have you registered him/her for Kindergarten? Starting August 9th, all of our elementary schools will be accepting registration for grades K- 5. You will need proof of residency and personal identification to register.

### Middle School Grades 6-8

All middle school registration starts on August 9th

### Paramount High School West Campus (9th grade only)

New Student Registration starts on July 26, 2010

### Paramount High School Senior Campus (10-12 grades)

New Student Registration starts on August 9, 2010.

If you have questions regarding registration, please call your school or Student Services at 602-6035 for information.

We'll see you on August 25!

Collins K-5  
(562) 602-8008

Mokler K-5  
(562) 602-8044

Alondra 6-8  
(562) 602-8004

Gaines K-3  
(562) 602-8012

Roosevelt K-5  
(562) 602-8056

Paramount Park 6-8  
(562) 602-8052

Jefferson K-5  
(562) 602-8024

Tanner K-5  
(562) 602-8060

Zamboni 6-8  
(562) 602-8048

Keppel K-5  
(562) 602-8028

Wirtz K-5  
(562) 602-8068

Paramount High West  
Campus (9th grade only)  
(562)602-8066

Lincoln K-5  
(562) 602-8036

Hollydale K-8  
(562) 602-8016

Paramount High School  
Senior Campus  
(10-12 grades)  
(562)602-6067

Los Cerritos K-5  
(562) 602-8040

Jackson 4-8  
(562) 602-8020

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their joyous experiences at meeting new people, exchanging state decorative pins with other participants, and making friends from various parts of the United States. Jose's favorite pins came from exchanges with his new friends from Alaska, Hawaii, Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico; while Bonnie's favorite pins came from Virginia and Tennessee. Jose graduated from Paramount this year, but Bonnie will return to PHS where she will be the 2010-2011 senior class President and continue her membership in the PHS' Corsaires. Bonnie will be next year's FHA co-president, and she was elected as region 9 FHA Historian and Treasurer. FHA Region 9 includes Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Bonnie and Jose's enthusiasm and dedication led to their

golden victory and they showed what is "Pirate Pride."

As we honor the victory of these students, it should be remembered that these students exemplified what all students at Paramount High can achieve through hard work and dedication. We are very proud of these students' achievements on winning the regional, statewide and Nationals competition, but also, it should be remembered that the commitment of our FHA students to the residents of Paramount Convalescent Hospital should also be honored. The potential of our student is boundless and it takes caring teachers like Ms. Tanimoto and Ms. Lash to unleash their student's potential.

**Greg Francois**  
Assistant Principal  
Paramount High School

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25 to 13 for the championship. They won prizes of gift cards, medallions and college scholarship money. They returned to Los Angeles as exhausted scholars. These young ladies will never be the same after

this opportunity. There will be no stopping them as they plan their future and continue striving towards achieving their goals.

**Valanitta Richard**  
2009-10 Principal  
Zamboni School

## A Piece of Cake



On Thursday July 1, 2010, Ms. Otani, a Language Arts teacher at Buena Vista High School, graciously consented to a baking demonstration for the 4th – 8th grade students at the Extended School Year (ESY) Program at Paramount Park School. The ESY Program is a summer program for Special Education students who attend Paramount Unified School District Middle Schools.

Ms. Otani is known for baking aesthetically beautiful and great tasting cakes and cupcakes. While sharing her knowledge of baking, Ms. Otani also integrated some important object lessons associated with baking. Additionally, she used the baking arena to show how friendly math and reading can be as well as the importance of following directions.

Ms. Gwen Yates, the principal for Paramount Park School ESY Program, prepared the students for the presentation by leading a discussion on related baking to the real world. She asked students to describe how each ingredient in a recipe tastes by itself. She asked, "Would you eat a stick of butter, or drink a cup of baking powder?" The students responded, "No!" Ms. Yates went on to discuss how each ingredient may taste horrible by itself, but, when mixed together properly, they come together to make a delicious treat. Though all ingredients are different from one another and may taste bad alone, they are each necessary parts to create the whole. "This is also true of school", says Ms. Yates. "There may be parts of school that students do not favor such as reading comprehension practice, fluency practice, or basic math facts; however, each part is necessary in order to score proficiently on assessments and assignments."

After the anticipatory set, students were led to the kitchen where Ms. Otani had set up her bakery. There were boxes of cake mix, various vibrantly colored icings in prepared pastry bags, sprinkle toppings, cupcakes tins, as well as printed directions so each student could follow along as she made the cupcakes.

The students quietly watched and listened while Ms. Otani walked them through the demonstration step-by-step. Students were encouraged to read directions thoroughly when baking and make sure they could clarify anything that they didn't understand. She ensured that they understood that not following directions could ruin the product. This point was related to taking summative assessments. If students don't follow directions carefully while testing, the final product, their scores, will be compromised.

Thanks to Ms. Otani, baking is a "piece of cake"

**Sara Aiken**  
ESY Counselor  
Paramount Park School

### Eye On Education is a monthly Publication of the Paramount Unified School District



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*Great things are happening in Paramount Schools*

### Eye On Education

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# Jefferson Jaguars Are Ready to Ride The Wave!!



5th graders pawed their way to Alondra Middle School on a recent visit before they went on summer break. They received an exuberant welcome from Principal Lynn Butler, Assistant Principal Lee Besler, and 8th grade student, Damita Haley, with a power point presentation and a walking tour of the campus. Coach Ana Azevedo and Counselors Dolores Barrios and Debbie Morrow were also part of the tour.

Students were excited to see the Dolphin. They were even more excited to learn about many new opportunities Alondra will provide, such as electives like Art and Computers, 6 different

teachers, P.E. lockers and uniforms, a state of the art gymnasium, a student store, Student Council, sports and cheerleading, and much more. And who wouldn't be impressed by their amphitheater!

Next year will be a new and wonderful experience. Although some of our students were a little nervous, they are still willing and ready to trade in their Jaguar paws for Dolphin fins. They can't wait to Ride the Wave of success!

**Ayanna Holland**  
Counselor  
Jefferson School

## Don't Forget - Fill Out Your Student Meal Benefits Application

The Student Nutrition Services Department encourages all families who have students enrolled in Paramount schools to complete a new 2010-11 meal benefits application and immediately return the application to your school. A new meal benefits application must be filled out each new school year. Families only need to fill out one family application even if they have children at more than one school. Your student's current lunch/breakfast pin number will continue to work in the 2010-11 school year, whether they stay at the same school or transfer to another Paramount school.

We will be having an "Open Enroll-

ment" at all elementary and middle schools daily beginning Monday, August 2, 2010 through Friday, August 6, 2010 from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The cafeteria manager will be glad to answer any questions or assist with filling out the application. School meal benefits are offered to all families who qualify.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the application, please contact Student Nutrition Services at 562-602-6031.

Remember to make healthy food choices!

**Chris Stamm, Director**  
Student Nutrition Services

## Superintendent's Message:

Dear Parents and  
Community Members,

**Welcome Back!**

On behalf of our Board of Education, I would like to welcome all of our students and families back from what I sincerely hope was a relaxing and fulfilling summer holiday with family and friends.

As you know, we are living today during very uncertain economic times. Our State's educational funding system is causing many school districts' throughout the State of California to reexamine their priorities and make very difficult decisions that affect their school district's programs and personnel. California is still facing a \$20 billion dollar shortfall or deficit and the cuts to education have been and will continue to be significant.

After five years as your Superintendent of Schools, I have learned that difficult times often bring out the best in us. These complex economic challenges we are facing have a way of focusing our attention on what is essential. They remind us of our core values and the District's Mission and Vision.

Since 1953, Paramount Unified School District has existed with the mission to prepare our students for a bright and successful future. In times like these, I am reminded that our most valuable asset is not the capital investment in our new schools and buildings. A school district is not great because of bricks and mortar, or libraries and laboratories or rankings and SAT scores. A school district is great because of its people, its faculty, students, staff, community, and alumni and in the way in which those people work together for a "common cause", the District's Mission and Vision.

I continue to have faith and hope that we will emerge successfully and do the right thing for our students, our employees and our District in these difficult times due to our greatest asset -you- the Paramount family of faculty, students and parents.

I am very proud of the many accomplishments and success that we have witnessed in PUSD. I am confident that we will continue our conditions for renewal. I am looking forward to a very positive 2010-11 school year.

**David J. Verdugo, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent



## WALKING SAFELY

These student safety guidelines were developed by Paramount Unified School District. Please review the following safety precautions with your children:

- Do not speak to strangers.
- Do not walk alone, particularly in isolated areas not intended for walking, especially along the railroad tracks.
- Use the appropriate dismissal gates, ones where there is supervision.
- Walk in areas where you can be seen by others.
- Travel in groups whenever possible.
- Report any suspicious behavior school authorities and the Paramount Sheriff Station at (562) 220-2002, Lakewood Sheriff Station at (562) 623-3500, Long Beach Police at (562) 570-9800 (Collins School) or South Gate Police at (323) 563-5400.

Please remind your children to be careful and constantly aware of their surroundings.

# Jackson Choir and STAR Program Presents Spring Concert!

The Jackson Choir in conjunction with the City of Paramount's STAR after school program presented a spring concert on June 3, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room at Jackson School.

Over 50 members of the Jackson choir, which consisted of 6th-8th grade

students, began the program by singing "My America" and "Gallop". After the choir took its applause, the STAR students stepped in and engaged the audience in feet tapping and clapping to their variety show of singing, dancing, and rock band playing. The performance ended with a standing ovation from the

audience of parents, family members, students, and staff members.

The choir teacher, Mr. Campbell, the STAR coordinators, and students were very proud of themselves and all of the hard work and practice they put into making the concert a success. Jackson School and the STAR program will

continue to work together to provide quality programs and to enhance the educational experiences of all of our students.

**Lisa Nunley**  
Principal  
Jackson School

# WIRTZ WIZARDS ARTISTS EXTRAORDINAIRE

Wirtz School's 5th grade students had an exciting year. Besides all the wonderful lessons their teachers developed and taught, one teacher decided to go one step further. Noting that the Art Curriculum was often pushed aside in favor of the academics, Mr. Erik Caruso decided to bring art education to the students. He knew that, although time was limited in the classroom, the students had plenty of time at home. They received lessons and participated in discussions at school, then took the project home and worked on it by themselves and with their families.

Contacting five different artists, Mr. Caruso invited them to share their art work and teach their particular styles to the students. The artists included Mr. Thomas Campbell, Mr. Shepard Fairey, Mr. Taka Hayashi, Mr. Mike Kershner, and Mr. Albert Reyes.

Mr. Hayashi, with backing of Vans® shoes, provided a lesson on Shoe Design. Students were given blank shoe sketches and encouraged to design their 'coolest' shoe.

Mr. Reyes shared black and white graphics and students worked in stark contrasting colors. Mr. Reyes actually silk screened 5th grade student, Jesus Lopez's winning design onto t-shirts for the three winners of his style for the 5th grade teachers.

Mr. Campbell's art lesson was a creative floral piece. Each child was supplied with seven petals and a circle center. Designs were colored on the flower and petals were first glued. Yarn was 'stitched' to create a 3-D effect. "Mr. Caruso and his wife had to draw and cut every petal and center," said Stacey Porter, a 5th grade student in Mr. Caruso's class, "He really worked hard on his own time to make sure the entire 5th grade had a chance to make our own flowers."

Mr. Kershner demonstrated artwork that used a silhouette of an animal that was then filled with repetitive patterns. Each child was encouraged to hide a phrase or word in their work. "I drew a panda," said Giselle Rodriguez, a student in Mr. Caruso's 5th grade class, "I put in the message 'save the earth'. It was a lot of fun and serious at the same time."

Finally, Mr. Fairey shared his 'Night of the Dead' artwork. "We used black construction paper and yellow yarn or glitter to create our design," said Karla Figueroa, another one of Mr. Caruso's 5th students, "We showed a tradition our family celebrated. It was great!"

The art lessons were spread throughout the school year and the students had plenty of time to design and create their piece. At the end of every project lesson, five pieces were selected from each of the 5th grade classroom by the students and teachers. This created a pool of twenty-five pieces for every style taught. Each artist then chose the top three pieces of art done in his style with the winners being announced at the Wirtz Art Show on Thursday, June 3, 2010. The artists decided to give the top three winners prizes that ranged from skateboards to original artwork to a chance to design personal Vans® shoes.

## Top Art Pieces Selected by Artist

<b>Taka Hayashi</b>	<b>Albert Reyes</b>	<b>Thomas Campbell</b>	<b>Mike Kershner</b>	<b>Shepard Fairey</b>
Christopher Duran	Jesus Lopez	David Valentin	Matthew Torres	Lesley Aguilar
Christian Villegas	Jisselle Rosales	Lizette Valencia	Maytte Arceo	Luis Molina
Jesus Lopez	Nicole Huddleston		Humberto Avila	Robert Flores

"We never get to do art" said Jerad Daniels, a 5th grade student from Mr. Caruso's class, "and then Mr. Caruso made it happen! I really hope we get the chance to do more artwork at Paramount Park Middle School next year."

Heather Tompkins - Teacher  
Wirtz School

## Alondra's Students Enthusiastically Respond to the "Women in History" Competition!

Not twenty, thirty, or even forty students turned in projects for the Paramount Women's Group annual "Women in History" competition. Over sixty students turned in projects for the event. Annually, the Paramount Women's organization holds a competition to honor the accomplishments and contributions of women throughout history. This year, Alondra Middle School, was honored to have been chosen to hold the annual event. There were no limitations (other than it had to be a woman) for the project. They could be from any country, any era, and they could be deceased or alive!

Of course there were the typical famous women that were well represented; Lady Bird Johnson, Susan B. Anthony, Mary Todd Lincoln, and more. There were some unique representations as well: Sonia Sotomayor, Dr. Mae Jemison (first African American female astronaut) and other eclectic choices. The women chosen were unique and from many different backgrounds but the way they were presented was also a surprise.

A lot of the projects were well written essays and very colorful posters but most of the projects were presented using the tools that the kids have learned in their elective classes this year. There was a surprising number of Microsoft PowerPoint presentations submitted this year. Nestor Plascencia, while not a winner, did a PowerPoint presentation on Sacagawea of Lewis and Clark fame. He decided to include things he learned from two of his classes: social studies and computer technology. Some students used their PowerPoint presentations to enhance their dramatic speeches. Lluvia De Cerda, the overall winner, did just that. A lot of the kids learned different art techniques in their Art classes and incorporated them into their presentations. The variety and quantity led to a difficult day for our judges.

Members of the Paramount Women's Club were overwhelmed at the number of projects and the quality of each of them. Many of our guests commented on how difficult it was to pick winners that day. They were impressed with the artistic quality and level of technology incorporated into each of them. After much deliberation, winners and prizes were awarded. The Alondra students appreciated their generosity and all participants were given coupons to Doubz. The winners were:

**Lluvia De Cerda-Two Knott's Berry Farm season tickets**  
**Lexie Johnson-\$30 gift card**  
**Maria Rivera-\$30 gift card**  
**Sei J. Lauago-Two movie tickets plus \$10 coupons and \$5 spending money**  
**Diamond Haley- Two movie tickets plus \$10 coupons and \$5 spending money**  
**Ernesto Luna- Two movie tickets plus \$10 coupons and \$5 spending money**

Joseph Jackson  
7/8 Social Studies Teacher  
Alondra Middle School

